Director May 4, 1939

him, and for this reason refused to make any payments to anyone, and the charges were subsequently dismissed.

√10

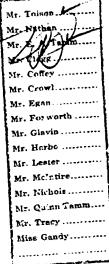
He further related that as far as the request of for \$7,500 was concerned, there were two persons, whose names he presently could not remember, operating a restaurant at 41st Street and Broadway, New York City, who could substantiate his story.

The above information was secured from during b70, an interview on another matter, and is being submitted to you for your information, and no action is being taken thereon.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH, Inspector.





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Hew York, Hew York.

PEF: RG

May 24, 1939

PERSONAL AND CO PIDENTIAL

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, hashington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

There has appeared in LEONARD LYONS column upon several occasions reference to

67C, 67D

paid for his passport; that he actually snuggled in property for GRACIFALLEN and MARY LEVINGET rether than GRACIFERMY. Recently he mentioned that in connection with the passing of a \$10,000.00 U.S. note by an attorney in town.

b7c

United States Attorney John To Cahill spoke to me about this and said he was very much concerned regarding the information appearing in LYONS column and wendered where the leak might be. I told Mr. Cahill that only one or two Apents of the Federal Eureau of Investigation knew of

67C,67D

other than myself and I was certain there had been no leak in the F.B.I.; that we furnished reports to him under Personal and Confidential cover and I did not know who in his office had access to those reports. I did tell Er. Cahill that I thought that if he wanted to ascertain the source of LYONS' information he should call him down and ask him or else have him appear before the Grand Jury.

RECORDED a INDEXED

At that time Mr. Cahill stated that he did not think that any purpose would be served by interviewing LYONS because he did not believe that he would disclose his source of information; further that he felt that if LYONS were called before the Grand Jury he would still refuse to disclose the source of his information. Mr. Cahill also pointed out that to follow such a procedure might interfere with the pleasant relations now existing between his office and the press.

Letter to Director

5/24/39

I informed Assistant Director E. A. Tamm of Mr. Cahill's remarks in connection with this matter and Mr. Tamm later instructed that I tell Mr. Cahill that the matter had been discussed with you and you were of the opinion that it would be a very good idea to have LYONS before the Grand Jury in order to question him concerning his sources of information and further that you were also greatly concerned about the source of information of the who has been found from time to time to be in possession of a good bit of confidential information and that it was your suggestion that at the same time be questioned as to his sources of information.

I informed Mr. Cahill of the above thing him that it was your suggestion. At that time Mr. Cahill again in that that he did not feel that any purpose would be served by calling either of the individuals before the Crand Jury for the reason that they would undoubtedly refuse to disclose their sources of information and for the further reason that he felt that it would interfere with the present relationship existing with the representatives of the press.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXFORTH, Inspector. 607 U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y.

SJD:JPM 62-6419

PERSONAL UD CONFIDENTIAL

August 11, 1939

Hon. John T. Cahill United States Attorney U. S. Court House Foley Square New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

For your information, during a recent interview with a prisoner in the Federal House of Detention, New York City, Special Agent was informed that a bondsman, was interested in a prisoner by the name of a bondsman, who was convicted early this year on a charge of counterfeiting and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

advised that was also being held at the House of Detention, New York City. However, it was subsequently ascertained that was transferred to the Atlanta penitentiary on July 14, 1939.

by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that and are very close to MR. DELANEY and were working for a reduction in sentence.

Very truly yours,

P. E. FOXWORTH, Special Agent in Charge

cc-Bureau

INDEXED

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U.S. DEPART - U.S. DEPART -

Federal Bureau of Investigation United States Department of Iustice

New York, N. Y.

SJD:EL 62-6419

July 25, 1939

Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

()

PERSONAL

Dear Sir:

For the Burgau's information, during a conference a prisoner in the Federal on July 6, 1939, House of Detention, New York City, advised Special Agent (A) a bondsman, was interested in that a prisoner by the name of who was convicted early this year on a charge of counterfeiting and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. advised that was being held at the House of Detention, New York City. It has been subsequently determined that was transferred to the Atlanta Penitentiary on July 14, 1939.

67 C further informed that case was handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney JOSEPH L. DELANEY, and that are very close to DELANEY and were working for

Very truly yours,

Special Agent in Charge.

a reduction in sentence.

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PEDERAL EUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 7 1939

IL S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

THE T

VCZ:RMB

August 3, 1939

RECORDED 54-717-14

PERSONAL

Special Agent in Charge Hew York, Hew York

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of July 25, 1939, concerning

bondsman, pas interested in a prisoner by the hame of those case was handled by Assistant Galted States Attorner Jesoph L. Delaney, and that and said the hard very close to Delaney and were working for a reduction in sentence.

It is desired that the information related in your above-mentioned letter be brought to the attention of United States Attorney Cabill.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Roover

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

AUG - 3 1939

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Coffey Mr. Egan Mr. Glavin Mr. Rosen ...

Mr. Nathan

Gem Smugg

Albert N. Chapereau, who did a bit of smuggling for Jack Benny, Mary Livingston, George Burns and Gracie Allen back in 1938, now wants the quartet to cough up with the \$7,682 he paid in fines, it became known yesterday.

Attorneys for the radio stars announced they'd move for dismissal of suits in Supreme Court at 10 A. M. today. Benny and Burns paid fines of \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively, in connection with the smuggling.

respectively in connects amuggling.

In his suit against the Bennys—
Jack and Mary—Chapereau seeks
\$2,131 and interest, charging they
laked him to carry diamond and
gald clips and a bracelet from
France.

63 MAR 17 1945

OLIFFING FROM THE N. Y. DAILY HEMS

FORWARDED BY M. Y. DIVISION

Prison Opens for Smuggler

Chaperau Sentence Is Commuted

NEW YORK, April 12—(P)—The United States Attorney's Office here was advised today that President Roosevelt had commuted to the time already served the five-year sentence imposed last April in Albert N. Chaperau, central figure in a widespread smuggling plot.

Chaperau, a pseudo diplomat, was, convicted as the carrier of smug-gled goods which wound up in the hands of such notables as Jack-Benny and George Burns, the radio comedians, and Mrs. Edgar Lauer, wife of a former New York State Supreme Court justice.

Chaperau's sentence, while orig-

Chaperau's sentence, while originally put at five years, already had been cut by Federal Judge Hulbert, on motion of the prosecution, to two years minus the time served while awaiting trial—which made the actual sentence about 18 months. His unpaid \$5,000 fine in remain in judgment against him lenny paid a \$10,000 fine: Busins

Senny paid a \$10,000 fine; Buins \$8,000 Mrs. Lauer served a 3month jail term.

THE DETRUIT NAMES APRIL 12, 1940





S. Rewards Chaperau

Albert N. Chaperau, serving two years in Federal prison for jewel smuggling, today earned his reward for co-operating with the Government in the case involving Jack Benny and George Burns, radio comedians, and Mrc. Elma N. Lauer, wife of former Supreme Court Justice Edgar A. Lauer.

An indictment against his wife, Paula Chaperau, was nolle prossed under authorization of U.S. Attorney John T. Cahill on the plea of Chaperau that Mrs. Chaperau and their 16-year-old daughter were poverty stricken in France and would like to return here.

Rurns and Benny were given a suspended sentence and Mrs. Lauer

wa sentenced to three months in

CLIFFING FROM THE N. Y. EVENING SCURNAL AMERICAN

DATE. (FOR 7 2 1.M)
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Mrs. Chaperau

Cahill Drops Indictment as Reward to Husband for Manton Trial Testimony

Manton Trial Testimony

The prosecution of Mrs. Pauls
Chaperay as a member hi a levely
smuggling asyndicate poemsted by
fier rushand, Abert M. Chaperay
and Mrs. Edgar & Dallar, wite of
the former unties of the Supreme
Court, was dropped restorday, when
a three-count indictment drawn up
against her on Dec. 9, 1932, was
noble prossed in United States Diatrict Court.

Joseph Delang, Assistant
United States Attorney, filed the
government's intention to drop
prosecution of Mrs. Chaperal,
which was said to be size has legal
action, taken in the case, which is,
suited in guilty pieur m. Jack Benny
and George Burns, screen and radio
comedians, as receivers in amuggled
goods. Chaperay has serving a woyear term and Mrs. Lailer has completed a three-month sentence
Benny and Burns should be a
suppended sentence of a rest, and
day. In addition, henry was fined
\$10,000 and Burns should be
the dropping of the implement
in which Mrs. Chaperay was named
as "Paula Gheyskens," was authorized by John T. Cahill, United
States Attorney, in consideration of
the testimony offered by Chaperay
as a government witness in the trial
of Martin T. Mantons former, senior
judge of the United States Circuit
Court of Appeals. The incl. followed
the recent policy which Mr. Cahill
has saturated on numerous occasions, of rewarding confessed
prisoners, for services, rendered to
the government in the various proscettions.

Chaperau had made many attempis since he was sentenced on

ecutions.

Chaperau had made many at-Chaperan had made many attempts kince he was sentenced on Jan. 10., 1839, for his part in the smuggling conspiracy, either to gain his release of quash the indictment against his wife so that she and their stateshard who are at present in Paris, could come to the United States. Chaperau told authorities that his family was poverty-stricken. poverty-stricken.

Mrs. Chaperau's part in the opera-Mrs. Chaperau's part in the opera-tions of the jewelry smugglers, ac-cording to the indictment, revolved around the smuggling into this country of a gold ring, stidded with diamonds, valued at 1905. The docu-ment charged that Mrs. Chaperau brought in the ring at the sugges-tion of her husband, who posed as a commercial attache of the Nica-racuan government to escape paya commercial attache of the Mica-raguan government, to escape pay-ment of Jimport duties. Besides smuggling the jewelry, Mrs. Chap-erau was accused of making take occlarations to the customs by fat-ing that the ring was her personal troperty, whereas it really was in-tinded to be sold to Burns, which

54-717-A-1

CLIPPILG FO THE HIW YOU

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DATE

FORWARDED BY THE YORK LITTING

mony Some Taker Some

New York January 16, 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Re:

67C

Gentlemen:

HANDVER 2-7800

67c

our client alleging that on or about November 9, 1940, it negli- b7C gently destroyed some of his personal property, contrary to his instructions.

We have some recollection of a man of a similar name being involved with the Department of Justice, due to violations of the Customs Laws. Our basis for believing that this is the same man is the fact that among the alleged property destroyed there is claimed to have been some correspondence from people of promintence in the theatrical and radio business.

We are interested in obtaining any useful information you may have in your files which will assist us in the defense of our case.

If convenient and agreeable to you, we shall be glad to have, our representative confer with your representative in New York City to go over the matter in more detail.

Yours very truly,

54-717-15

Managing Attorney

JEC: GU

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JAC:LIC 54-717-15

February 2, 1943

b

27 Cedar Street New York, New York

Dear

b1C

I have for acknowledgment your letter dated January 16, 1943.

Please be advised that the matter referred to therein was handled by the Customs Service in New York City, and it is, therefore, suggested you may desire to communicate with the Customs Service or with the United States Attorney's Office in New York City, which prosecuted this case, for further details in this regard.

I regret advising that I am unable to render you any assistance in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Telson_____ John Edgar Hoover
Mr. E. A. Tamm__
Mr. Clegg____

In &

Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Kramer
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nesse
Miss Gandy

Mr. Glavin_____ Mr. Ladd____ Mr. Nichols____

June 25, 1964

February 14, 1894 Waukegan, Illinois

In response to your request for a check of the files of this Bureau concerning the captioned individual, you are advised that no investigation of him has been conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940 Benny was the subject of a snuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

You may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for information concerning this matter. (54-717)

Original & 1 - CSC Request Received 6/23/64

| EINCLOSURE

TE JUN 30 1964

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.



ADDRESS REPLY TO
"CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION"
AND REFER TO

FILE

AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

Renny, Jack (stage name)
DOB: 2-11-94
POB: Waukegan, Ill.

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA, VOLUME 31, 1960-1961, page 222

Radio entertainer; b. Waukegan, Ill., Feb. 11, 1891; s. Meyer and Emma (Sachs) Kubelsky; ed. Waukegan (Ill.) High Sch.; m. Mary Livingstone (actress) Jan. 25, 1927; l dau., Joan Nacmi (adopted); Began as violinist, 1912; featured player on vaudeville stage; star in motion pictures since 1929; radio entertainer since 1932 also on TV as guest artist and in own program; recent pictures: To Be or Not to Be, George Washington Slept Here, The Horn Blows at Midnight. Served in U. S. Navy, World War I; spent summers 1943, 14, 15, entertaining armed forces Overseas during World War II. Recipient award for best continuing performance by a male entertainer Nat. Acad. Television Arts and Sci., 1957, Spl. award. Home: 1002 North Roxbury Dr., Beverly Hills, Cal.

SII Check - No Record

In response to your request

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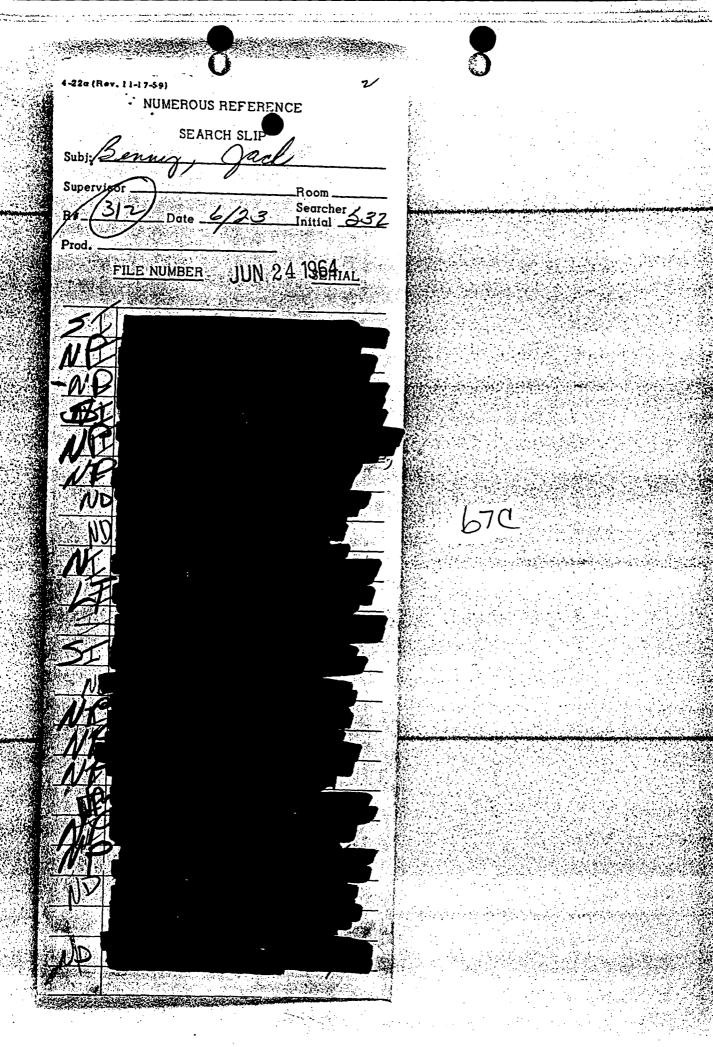
ENCLOSURE

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August 12, 1964

BENJAMIN KUBELSKY, ALSO KNOWN
AS JACK BENNY
BORN: FEBRUARY 14, 1894

WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

Captioned individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940, Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000.

As the files of the FBI contain no additional pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Custom's Eureau, U.S. Treasury Department for further information. (54-717)

(Request per Social Secretary, White House.)

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54-717- M

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT $\it 1emorandum$ Mr. DeLoach DATE: 8-13-64 SUBJECT: NAME CHECK REQUESTS FOR WHITE HOUSE 107C , Social Secretary at the White House. requested a check of Bureau files concerning the following individuals: Dan Blocker, Nathan Birnbaum (George Burns), Alfred Gerald Caplin (Al Capp), Michael Landon, Raymond Massey, Richard Bernard Skelton (Red Skelton), Sam Jaffe There are attached 14 memoranda reflecting the results of these checks. RECOMMENDATION: That you Mr. DeLoach, furnish the attached letterhead memoranda to 16 AUG 25 364 Enclosures (1,4 1 - Mr. Belmont - Enclosures 1 - M. Mohr - Enclosures 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures Mr. Evans - Enclosures - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures JMM:cmk CRIMIN RESEARCH

34 AUG 28 1964

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SEX LOSURE

August 13, 1964

NATHAN BIRNBAUM, ALSO KNOWN AS GEORGE BURNS BORN: JANUARY 20, 1896 NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Captioned individual has never been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI.

The files of this Bureau do reveal, however, that according to newspaper publicity appearing in late 1939 and early 1940, Burns was the subject of a smuggling investigation as a result of which he was convicted and paid a fine of \$8,000.

As the files of the FBI contain no furthum pertinent information concerning this matter, you may desire to check with the Customs Bureau, U. S. Treasury Department, for further information. (54-717)

In 1943, Burns was reported to be a sponsor of the Committee for the Care of Children in Wartime, which organization allegedly had Communist Party affiliations and connections. Burns, however, was believed to be unaware of the true nature of the organization. (100-92879-24)

In the early 1940's, Burns was reported to be a member of the Hollywood Democratic Committee, cited as a communist front by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in a 1948 report. In June, 1945, Burns was also listed as a member of the executive council of the Hollywood Independent Citizens: Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions (HICCASP), successor to the Hollywood Democratic Committee. The HICCASP was also cited as a communist front by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities in its 1948 report. (100-197270-7, 21;100-15252)-39).

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Tolson b7c	r
Belmont	
Contrad DeLoach Evans	
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Sullivon Tavel Trotter Tele. Room	

March 18, 1968

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

Reference is made to your name check request for a review of FBI files concerning the following individuals subsequent to the date of the previous name check request as noted following each name.

Benjamin Kubelsky (also known as Jack Benny) John Ernst Steinbeck

September 12, 1963 August 12, 1964 May 20, 1964

Our files contain ac additional pertinent information concerning Mr. Kubelsky.

In 1967, information was received that

reference for an individual who was a designate from the New York Guild of the American Newspaper Guild to its National Convention in 1945. The New York Newspaper Guild had been described as communist infiltrated and communist dominated. This same individual reportedly sent a communication to Governor Thomas Dewey in 1954 appealing for enscutive clemency for who was convicted on June 28, 1941, in General Sections Court, New York, and sentenced to State Prison on four counts of giving false testimony before the Rapp--Condert Joint Legislative Committee. During his testimony had admitted membership in the Communist Party but had lied with respect to the number of individuals he knew to be members of the City College of New York Unit of the Communist Party,

NCLOSURE 1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent dice)

Mr. Galerisent direct)

126 MAR 21 1988 See note next page

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laii ch an

Gale ullivan

Mrs. Mildred Stegall

Information was received in 1966 that a Czechoslovakian citizen, who had been a member of the Czechoslovakian Communist Party since 1945, was to visit the United States on the cultural exchange program in 1966. He indicated an intention to visit friends in the United States included among whom was John Steinbeck.

The files of the Identification Division were checked and found to contain no additional pertinent data concerning the above individuals.

A copy of this communication has not been sent to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

-2-

June 6, 1972

MR. AND MRS. JACK BENNY

Jack Benny, who you advised resides at 1400 Tower Grove Drive, Beverly Hills, California, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI. However, our files reveal that in late 1939 and early 1940, Benny was the subject of a smuggling investigation which was not investigated by this Bureau, and was subsequently convicted and paid a fine of \$10,000. (54-715)7

Attached is a copy of an FBI Record, Number 3 367 854, which may relate to Jack Benny. The central files of the FBI contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individuals based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

Enclosure

NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President. 54-117-18

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11:02AM June 8, 1971

The Your Room advised that a special tour of the Bureau has been arranged for the daughter of Jack Benny, the famous comedian, wir. Benny's grandson,

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wednesday, June 9th. They will be make conducted on tour by a Special Agent tell of the Crime Records Division.

There was no request to meet the Eirector.

This tour was requested through the office of the Vice President.

MR. FELT

MR. GALE

MR. ROSEN

MR. TAVEL

MR. SOYARS

MR. JONES

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June 6, 1972 BY LIAISON Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C. Dear Mr. Butterfield: Reference is made to your name check request concerning Mr. and Mrs. Jack Benny, 107C Attached are separate memoranda concerning these individuals. Patrick Gray, III Acting Director Inclosures (4) 1 - Mr. Cleveland - Enclosures (sent direct) Felt JCF:mcbn/CD a'adahan Campbell Cleveland Conred ___ Salbey Marshall Willer, E.S. . Ponder _ UNRIO4 1972 TELETYPE UNIT

August 22, 1972 BY LIAISON

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your name check request concerning (Jim Backus and some other individuals.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:



Jim Backus

Vince Edwards

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Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III Acting Director

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August 21, 1972

GEORGE BURNS

Captioned individual, who you advised resides at 720 North Maple Drive, Beverly Hills, California, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBL

However, our files reveal that in late 1939 Burns, whose true name is Nathan a irnbaum, was the subject of a smuggling (jewels and clothing) investigation which was not conducted by this Bureau. He was subsequently convicted, given a suspended sentance of one year and one day, and paid an \$8,000 fine. (54-717)

The central files of the FBI, including the files of the Identification Division, contain no additional pertinent information concerning captioned individual based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

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NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

EJK:csh/psr (5)

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